

ElderSource Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday August 20, 2020

12:30 PM

ElderSource Zoom Room

Jacksonville, Florida

Call-In Number: 1-929 436-2866

Meeting ID #: 842-548-1583

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order** Cheryl Jefferson, Chair
- 2. Signatures – In-kind Match & Travel Vouchers** Cheryl Jefferson, Chair
- 3. Roll Call – Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant** Sherry Holmes, Admin. Asst.
- 4. Approval of Council Minutes (Meeting June 18, 2020)** Cheryl Jefferson, Chair
- 5. Topics for Live Chats** Linda Levin, CEO
- 6. Open Positions – Secretary and Nominating Committee** Cheryl Jefferson, Chair
- 7. Census Presentation** Dr. Standralyn Terry
- 8. Area Plan** Nancy Tufts, VP of Planning & Programs

- 9. County Reports**
 - Baker
 - Clay
 - Duval
 - Flagler
 - Nassau
 - St. Johns
 - Volusia

- 10. Old Business**
- 11. New Business**
- 12. Date of Next Meeting – October 15, 2020 at 12:30 PM**
- 13. Adjourn** Cheryl Jefferson, Chair

Inclusion Statement: ElderSource values all people – including but not limited to all nationalities, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities, races, genders, religious perspectives, sexual orientations and gender identities – in everything we do. We welcome the unique insights and perspectives of all persons in our quest to fulfill our mission.

Mission: To empower individuals to age with independence and dignity by providing leadership, direction, advocacy, and support for a comprehensive coordinated continuum of care.

**Advisory Council Meeting
10688 Old St Augustine Rd
Thursday June 18, 2020
12:30 PM**

Via Zoom

Present

Pamela Sanders, Chair– Baker
Cheryl Jefferson - Duval
Ingrid Montgomery - Duval
Bernie Fitzgerald – Flagler
Jerry Thompson – St. Johns
Ashley Jennings – Volusia

Absent

Lesa Lee Dike – Baker
Patricia McDonald – Baker (Excused)
Diane Eckert – Clay
Janet Joiner – Clay
Steve Taylor – Clay
Curlene Wims – Duval
Earnest Berrian – Duval
Barbara Solomon – Flagler
Caryn Prather – Flagler (Excused)
Bernadette Ricks – Nassau
Janice Ancrum – Nassau
Albert Abbatiello – St. Johns
Frances Chew – Volusia (Excused)
Hortense Geter – Volusia (Excused)

Staff and Guests

Linda Levin, CEO
Nancy Tufts, VP of Planning and Programs
Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant

Meeting Called To Order

Cheryl Jefferson called the meeting to order at 12:55 PM.

Roll Call

Linda Levin called the roll and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2020 meeting was made by Pamela Sanders and seconded by Ashley Jennings. Motion passed unanimously.

COVID 19 Update

Nancy Tufts, VP of Planning and Programs updated the committee on COVID19. She shared that the Providers in each county are responding to the increased needs for older adults by increasing the amount of meals provided and offering many services using virtual platforms to help prevent social isolation.

Area Plan

Nancy informed the committee that we are in an Area Plan update cycle. Every three years we are requested by the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) to provide an Area Plan that maps out what services will be provided in our Planning and Service area, all seven counties and how those will be provided. In between years we provide them with an update that shows any changes that will be made. We will present any changes made in your next meeting so that you can see before we submit to DOEA.

Disaster Preparation

Nancy noted that disaster preparation is underway. COVID has added an extra layer to our planning for disaster. Staff is working very closely with the local Emergency Management offices in every county to discuss available options if someone had to shelter. One consideration is temporarily sheltering individuals in hotels when using larger centers such as schools. This would provide safe distancing around each of the individuals. We are educating the community on registering through the Special Needs Registry for seniors who may need additional assistance in a crisis.

START Training

Nancy noted that her Team identifies unmet needs in the community. One of those needs they identified a few years ago was mental health counseling for seniors. Mental Health is one of the services that is provided by our funded agencies in all seven counties. This past year we prioritized some of our administrative funding to request a training through Living Works. This training focuses on intervention and recognition of suicide tendencies. Nancy informed the group that training opportunities were purchased for our staff, providers and each committee member, if interested. The training takes 60 minutes to complete.

Linda Levin, informed the group that one of our concerns for seniors because of the increased isolation due to COVID is suicide. Seniors may feel lonely and depressed, and wanting to end their lives. All of our staff have completed the START training. This training is online and has different ways of engaging the individuals. It is simple and straight forward. Linda is encouraging members to take the training and will send the information to all.

Operations and Legislation Update

Linda noted that we are going into our new fiscal year starting July 1, 2020. There were increases approved for funding including Aging Disability and Resource Center (ADRC). We are not sure if the Governor will veto any funding to senior services.

Linda is very excited about an important bill that passed and was signed into law - as the Elder Abuse Fatality Review Team. Staff worked with the Women's Center of Jacksonville, Judge Gary Flower and Senator Audrey Gibson for four years trying to get this passed. This bill will create a team made up of the Area Agency on Aging, Lead Agencies, Department of Children and Families, State Attorney's Office,

Department of Health and other Advocates to look at closed elder abuse cases where the elder abuse may have resulted in a fatality. These teams will not be doing investigations. They will be looking to see if there was something in the system that could have prevented that fatality and future fatalities. The Elder Abuse Fatality Review Team will make recommendations to the State.

We have received increased funding because of COVID. The Families First Act was passed which was the first amount of COVID funding received and the CARES Act which was additional funding received for older adult services. There are also one or two other Acts out there that will potentially continue to give us funding to provide services to older adults during COVID-19.

Linda noted that in our area we have been fortunate to receive private funding locally:

- First Coast Relief Fund \$90,000
- Jim Moran Foundation \$100,000
- Other contributors include Humana, Well Care, United Way Volusia/Flagler, and The Link

We have been able to provide food and groceries as well as supplies like toilet paper, rent assistance, mortgage assistance, energy assistance and income replacement for those who lost work due to COVID. Florida Blue is another company from whom we received funding that allows us to do something very special with UNF and their Meals on Wings to get meals to seniors.

In terms of ElderSource operations, Linda told the group that we are going to continue working remotely through the end of December 2020. All 56 members of staff have been able to work remotely and continue to serve seniors in our seven counties as we have the tools and technology available to us. Leadership is putting a plan in place when staff needs to come into the office to perform certain functions on a limited basis, they can do so safely. These actions will be put into place beginning in July through the end of the year: social distancing requirements, sanitizing the building, putting up signage, doing temperature checks. Then Leadership will look at January 2021 to see if we will continue working this way.

County Reports

Volusia

Ashley Jennings

- Ashley requested that Council members let her know of any needs for masks in Volusia County. She is using the social media platform by retweeting important information for safety purposes to ensure that older adults know what resources are available to them. She recently traveled to Deland to survey what was happening there. Being unable to contact the appropriate people to speak to she is preparing to send out emails to the vice Mayor, Mr. Victor Hummel to see what help they could offer.

St. Johns

Jerry Thompson

- Nothing to report at this time.

Nassau

No representation

Flagler

Bernie Fitzgerald

- Nothing to report at this time.

Duval

Ingrid Montgomery

- Nothing to report at this time.

Cheryl Jefferson

- Cheryl informed the group of an upcoming event being held by Timucuan Parks Foundation and AARP “A Year in Our National Parks” July 1 at 9:30 to 11:00 AM on Zoom. Mark Woods, columnist for the Florida Times-Union, talks about spending one year in the national parks while working on a project.

Clay

No representation.

Baker

Pamela Sanders

- Pamela noted that Baker County is slowly coming back, all business are not open yet, restaurants are starting to open. Not much senior activity as the COA is closed. The nursing home got hit pretty hard with COVID.

Old Business

None

New Business

Pamela Sanders shared with the members her need to step down as Chairperson. Prior to the meeting, she spoke with Cheryl Jefferson about stepping up as Chairperson. Pamela is agreeable to staying on as Vice-Chair.

Ashley Jennings made the motion approval for Cheryl to assume the Chairmanship and Pamela to step down to Vice Chair. There was a second to the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Sherry Holmes, Administrative Assistant

These minutes were adopted by vote of this Advisory Council on _____.

(Date)

Secretary: _____

Albert Abbatiello